

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

## Total Maximum Daily Load Information Sheet

### Little Beaver Creek

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#### Waterbody Segment at a Glance:

**County:** Phelps  
**Nearby Cities:** Rolla  
**Length of impairment:** 0.1 miles  
**Pollutant:** Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS)  
**Source:** Rolla SW Wastewater Treatment Plant



State map showing location of watershed

**Note:** Water quality studies since the development of the 2002 303(d) List suggest there is no longer a VSS problem in this stream but data indicate there are low dissolved oxygen levels for at least two miles below the Rolla SW WWTP.

**TMDL Priority Ranking:** High

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#### Description of the Problem :

##### Beneficial uses of Little Beaver

- Livestock and Wildlife Watering
- Protection of Warm Water Aquatic Life
- Protection of Human Health associated with Fish Consumption
- Whole Body Contact (Swimming)

##### Use that is impaired

- Protection of Warm Water Aquatic Life
- Whole Body Contact

##### Standards that apply

**Note:** Any waterbody that was listed for Non-filterable Residue (NFR) in 1998 is now being listed for Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS). This change was made to better distinguish between solids coming from wastewater treatment plants (VSS) and solids coming from soil erosion or erosion of mine waste materials or stockpiles (Non-Volatile Suspended Solids or NVSS).

- The standards for volatile suspended solids (VSS) may be found in the general criteria section of the WQS at 10 CSR 20-7.031(3)(A) and (C).
  - Waters shall be free from substances in sufficient amounts to cause the formation of putrescent, unsightly or harmful bottom deposits or prevent full maintenance of

beneficial uses.

- Waters shall be free from substances in sufficient amounts to cause unsightly color or turbidity, offensive odor or prevent full maintenance of beneficial uses.

### Background Information and Water Quality Data

Visual surveys Little Beaver Creek prior to 2003 indicated some deposition of organic solids downstream of the Rolla South-west Wastewater Treatment Plant (SW WWTP) and an adjoining sand and gravel washing operation. Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS) refer to particles that are suspended in water, like algae, or those that settle out, like the sewage sludge in Little Beaver Creek. When these solids settle onto the streambed, they smother natural substrates (stream bottom), aquatic invertebrate animals, and fish eggs.

In 2003, a water quality study of Little Beaver Creek by the department found little deposition of fine sediments at locations 0.4 and 0.6 miles downstream of the Rolla SW WWTP. This study did show lower levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) downstream of the Rolla SW WWTP. Water quality data from this study is summarized in the following table.

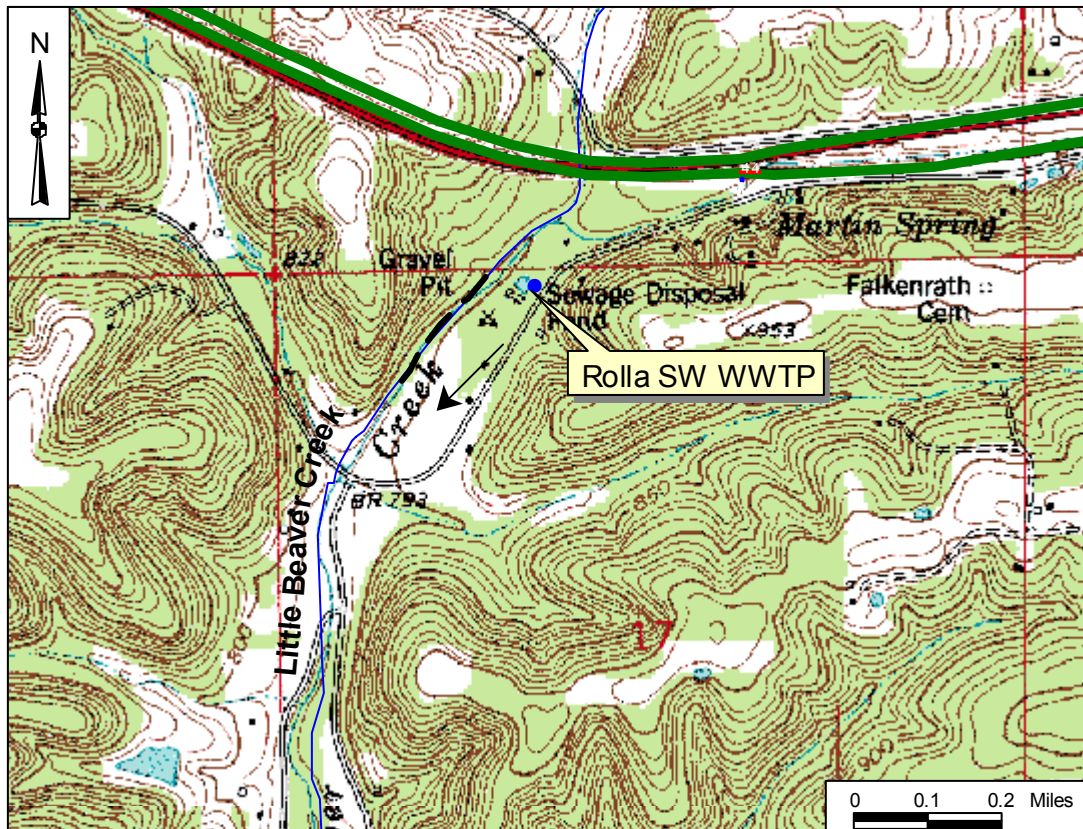
Mean Water Quality Data for Little Beaver Creek, 2003					
Site	AM. Diss. Oxygen (mg/L)	Ammonia (mg/L)	Total Susp. Solids (mg/L)	Volatile Susp. Solids (mg/L)	Percent Fines (Sand/Silt) in Stream Bottom Material
L. Beaver Cr. 0.1 Mi. Upstrm of Rolla WWTP	5.4	<0.03	<5	<5	10.7
L. Beaver Cr. 0.4 Mi. Downstrm of Rolla WWTP	<b>2.6</b>	0.10	6.5	<5	4.8
L. Beaver Cr. 0.6 Mi. Downstrm of Rolla WWTP	<b>1.6</b>	<0.03	<5	<5	2.7
L. Beaver Cr. 1.7 Mi. Downstrm of Rolla WWTP	<b>2.4</b>	<0.03	<5	<5	17.1

Bold numbers indicate exceedence of state water quality standards (5 mg/L for DO).

Like all wastewater discharges in Missouri, this facility has to meet the requirements of a discharge permit issued by Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The department plans additional water quality studies of this stream. If these studies show that the stream is not meeting water quality standards, the discharge permit will be amended. Meeting the new requirements will result in improved water quality in Little Beaver Creek.

Map of site shown below.

## Rolla SW WWTP on Little Beaver Creek in Phelps County, Missouri



--- Impaired segment

← Direction of flow

### For more information call or write:

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Water Protection Program

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